

SENATE BILL 989

By Niceley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39,  
Chapter 14, Part 2; Title 44 and Section 55-4-290,  
relative to locating animals' owners.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 44, Chapter 17, Part 5, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) Before any public or private agency, animal shelter, or other facility operated for the collection or care of stray, neglected, abandoned, or unwanted dogs and cats, spays or neuters a dog or cat that the facility knows or should know, by identification or vaccination tags, implanted microchip, personal knowledge, or otherwise, has an owner, the facility must hold the dog or cat for at least forty-eight (48) hours from the time the dog or cat is brought to the facility.

(b) During the holding period required by subsection (a), the public or private agency, animal shelter, or other facility must attempt to contact the owner of the dog or cat by any means that is reasonable in light of the information and resources available to the public or private agency, animal shelter, or other facility.

(c) A public or private agency, animal shelter, or other facility must make a written record of all attempts that it makes to contact the owner of a dog or cat prior to spaying or neutering as required by subsection (b). A written record made pursuant to this subsection (c) must be retained for three (3) years and be open for public inspection during the normal business hours of the public or private agency, animal shelter, or other facility that created the record.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017, the public welfare requiring it.